Registered No. M.—1175.

The Mysore Gazette.

Vol. 74] PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY [No. 31

BANGALORE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1939.

PART I

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CHIEF SECRETARIAT

Rules providing for the Remission and Suspension of Assessment on Dry Lands.

READ—

Letter No. C. 5602—37-38, dated 19th January 1939, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, submitting proposals for the further liberalisation of the remission rules specially to provide for the remission of assessment on dry lands when there is a general failure of dry crops.

ORDER No. R. 753-64—R. M. 49-39-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 29TH JULY 1939.

The question of issuing a set of rules to regulate the grant of remission of assessment on dry lands on failure of dry crops owing to absence or inadequacy of rain-fall has been urged on Government from a long time past in the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council as well as in the District Conferences.

2. Under the system of Land Revenue Settlement in Mysore, the assessment is based on average agricultural conditions taking good and bad years into consideration and consequently, any abatement of the established assessment has been regarded as an exceptional measure. Any special rules regarding remissions in cases of failure of crop owing to the vicissitudes of the season have been considered unnecessary, as sufficient allowance has been made for this factor in fixing the assessment. Nevertheless, Government have declared their policy that where, owing to the existence of widespread distress, relief is considered necessary, they would always be prepared to consider each case separately according to its merits. Following this policy, seasonal remissions of assessment have been sanctioned from a long time in tracts in which distress was found to be prevalent. In view, however,

of the insistent representations made at successive sessions of the Representative Assembly for a change of policy so as to afford greater relief to the raiyats, Government sanctioned, in the year 1922, a scheme for the grant of remission of assessment on wet and garden lands. These rules have been liberalised from time to time in the years 1925, 1927 and 1932, and during the past three years particularly, in view of the agricultural depression, the conditions in which relief is to be granted have been relaxed and remissions of wet and garden assessment have been sanctioned on a very generous scale. During the current year, the remission rules have been extended to rainfed wet lands also.

3. In regard to dry assessment there are at present no definite rules. In view of the failure of crops in 1934-35 in certain parts of the State, the Agriculturists' Relief Committee suggested that, in tracts where crops had completely failed and where conditions of distress prevailed, the question of granting some concession by way of remission of a part of the assessment on dry lands might be favourably considered. But Government observed that, though the existing rules made no provision for the remission of dry assessment, Government would always be prepared, as a special concession outside the rules, to sanction suspension of revenue in tracts which suffered severely by drought and where necessary, to sanction even a remission of part of the demand. In accordance with this policy, Government sanctioned the suspension and remission of dry assessment in some affected parts of the Kolar District during the year 1934-35. Owing to the continued fall in the prices of agricultural produce, Government have also reduced the maximum rate of dry assessment from Rs. 3-8-0 to Rs. 2-12-0. This involved a recurring loss of revenue of nearly a lakh and a half rupees.

4. Notwithstanding these concessions, representations continue to be made in the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council that definite rules should be formulated regarding the conditions and extent of the concession that would be allowed in regard to dry assessment. During the June Session of the Legislative Council in 1938 Government promised to examine the matter and pass suitable orders.

5. The Revenue Commissioner has since examined the question in detail and considers that, although Government are prepared to sanction remission of dry assessment in special cases, it is necessary to lay down definite rules regarding the circumstances in which such relief should be recommended, as such rules would enable local officers to initiate action when the need arises and help the raiyats to understand when and to what extent they may expect relief. Agreeing in this view, Government are pleased to approve of the following rules to regulate the suspension of the collection, and the grant of remissions of dry assessment:—

(1) Where the Deputy Commissioner has ascertained by local enquiries that owing to a partial or total failure or destruction of the crops throughout any tract on account of drought or other cause, it will be necessary to suspend the collection of land revenue in any area, he is authorised, especially where the tract is already impoverished, or the previous harvests have been poor, to grant suspension of one-fourth assessment and report the fact to the Government through the Revenue Commissioner. The suspended revenue will normally be collected in the following year along with the assessment of that year.

(2) If during the year following the year of suspension of revenue also, the crops fail, the suspended assessment will be remitted by the Deputy Commissioner after obtaining the sanction of Government.

(3) Application for relief under the rules should be made by the villagers concerned to the Amildar before the 30th November.

(4) The Amildar, shall, on receipt of such application make personal inspection of the affected tract without delay and submit a detailed report of the result to the Sub-Division Officer, who will forward it to the Deputy Commissioner before the first January, with his own opinion after personal inspection and such further enquiry as he may consider necessary, to satisfy himself about the accuracy of the Amildar's report.

(5) If in a tract there are lands which are not cultivated ordinarily in a normal year and would presumably have been left uncultivated even if the season had been a normal one, no remission should be granted in such cases.

(6) The above concessions will not be granted if only one village or a small group of villages are affected.

B. T. KESAVIENGAR,
Chief Secretary to Government.